(b) whether according to the mid-term appraisal, Government are lagging far behind in the achievements;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to take any positive measures towards poverty alleviation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) The Tenth Five Year plan period (2002-07) set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by the year 2007 and by 15 percentage points by year 2012.

In the urban areas, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, through States/Union Territories, with effect from 1.12.1997. The scheme envisages to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and secondly by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), on all India basis, targets to provide 4,00,000 employment opportunities to the urban poor, through setting up of micro-group enterprises and to impart skill training to 5,00,000 urban poor were fixed under SJSRY. Against these targets, durign the first four years of the Tenth Plan *i.e.* 2002-03 to 2005-06, as well for the 2006-07 (as reproted by the States/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports, received upto 28.2.2007). cumulatively, 4,62,265 urban poor have been assisted to set up micro-enterprises and 5,60,032 urban poor have been provided skill training.

Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements

1087. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India held a first housing conference in the Asia Pacific countries during the first Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements on December 13—16, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the four-day conference was attended by various representatives of 69 countries, discussed issues relating to pro-poor urban governance and planning, water and sanitation, slum up-gradation, urbanization and related financial matters;

(c) if so, the outcome of the Conference;

(d) the details of the decisions taken; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Conference was attended by Ministers from 18 countries and representatives from 35 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

(c) to (e) As per Delhi Declaration, the outcome of the Conference is to set up the following organs:

* The biennial Ministerial Conference,
* The Bureau; and
* The Secretariat

A bureau of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference has been set up by this Ministry to implement decisions taken in the Conference.

Indians in Trinidad and Tobaggo

†1088. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians residing in Trinidad and Tobaggo are facing racial discrimination;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they are beign harassed by being denied of their rights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do no arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.